

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 AID-05

ACDA-05 /090 W

----- 091021

O R 081050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9624

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 0356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJ: TEXT OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO DRV FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS GIVEN US A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL
TRANSLATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN
ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA'S LETTER TO DRV FOREIGN MINISTER
NGUYEN DUY TRINH. THE RTG IS SENDING THE LETTER TO OTHER
SEATO MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT SO FAR HAS NOT RELEASED THE FULL
TEXT PUBLICLY. THE ORIGINAL TEXT WAS IN THAI BECAUSE THE
ORIGINAL OF TRINH'S LETTER TO CHARUNPHAN WAS IN VIETNAMESE.
THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"26TH DECEMBER B.E. 2517(1974)

HIS EXCELLENCY,
NGUYEN DUY TRINH,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

EXCELLENCY,

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I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RDCEIPT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTE

OF NOVEMBER 27, 1974 WHICH HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE ROYAL THAI EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE. IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WISHES TO FOLLOW THE POLICY OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS WITH THAILAND AS WELL AS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL SOUTH-EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. AS FOR THAILAND, I CAN STATE WITHOUT HESITATION THAT IT HAS BEEN OUR DECLARED POLICY TO ENTERTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHICH MANIFEST NO ILL-WILL TOWARDS US IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY OR SOCIAL SYSTEM.

HOWEVER, THE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS TO THE PRESENT OBSTACLE TO PEACE AND THE HINDRANCE TO THE GOOD GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM EMPHASIZES ONLY ONE PART OF THE EXISTING PROBLEM.

AS A NATION, THE THAI PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS CHERISHED AND VALUED FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND GAVE ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIAN AND LAOTIAN PEOPLES IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO FORGE NATIONHOOD AND TO RESIST OUTSIDE ENCROACHMENT ON THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THE GREAT NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE WHO STILL RESIDE IN THAILAND UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY IS A VIVID TESTIMONY OF THE EXTENT OF OUR SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO REGAIN FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY FROM THEIR FORMER COLONIAL RULERS. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT SHARE THE VIEW THAT IN CASE EFFORTS MADE BY ANY COUNTRY IN THE SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES TO IMPOSE ITS DOMINATION AND A FORM OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT ON THE PEOPLES OF INDOCHINA BY FORCE OF ARMS OR INFLUENCE THROUGH THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT COULD BE JUSTIFIED AS A MOVE TO PROTECT THEIR LIBERTY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.

THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE HAVE UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED THE WISHES OF THOSE WHO HAVE OPTED FOR A FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL SYSTEM DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN AND, NO DOUBT, IT IS OUR RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES WOULD SHOW THE SAME UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT TOWARDS THAILAND.

CONTRARY TO OUR ANTICIPATION, WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES THE
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OBJECT OF TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION INSTIGATED FROM OUTSIDE AS WELL AS SUBJECTED TO DAILY VITUPERATIVE PROPAGANDA, INCITING OUR PEOPLE BY VARIOUS MEANS TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT BY FORCE OF ARMS AND TO ABANDON THE WAY OF LIFE INHERITED FROM OUR FOREFATHERS.

ALSO, IN THE KINGDOM OF LAOS AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC, THEIR TERRITORIES HAVE BEEN OVERRUN FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS BY FORCE

OF ARMS AND THE PEOPLE OF THOSE TWO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF OURS HAVE HAD TO ENDURE GREAT SUFFERINGS ON ACCOUNT OF THE STRUGGLE DIRECTLY RESULTING FROM SUCH ACTIONS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A HEGEMONY OVER THE ENTIRE AREA, WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE SECURITY OF THAILAND. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THAILAND HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ADOPT NECESSARY MEASURES DESIGNED TO CURB THOSE ACTIVITIES. THESE MEASURES HAVE NEVER BEEN GEARED TOWARDS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF ANY COUNTRY.

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9627

INFO AMEMBASSY EAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 0356

IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT A FORM OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE, BUT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES MUST BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE THEIR OWN FREEDOM OF CHOICE. IN FACT, UNDER THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, IT IS EVEN MORE DESIRABLE AND REALISTIC THAT THE SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR HER PEOPLE CAN PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST WITH THE OTHER SYSTEMS OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLES OF OTHER COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN AND RESPECTED FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE, VALOUR AND INDUSTRIOUSNESS. THESE QUALITIES HAVE, IN FACT, WON HIGH PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO KNOW AND WORK WITH THEM. IT WILL BE GREATLY BENEFICIAL IF

SUCH QUALITIES BE UTILIZED TO SECURE A BETTER CONDITION OF LIVING AND GREATER PROSPERITY FOR THEMSELVES AS WELL AS TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO REGIONAL COOPERATION, SO THAT PEACE AND STABILITY AND PROGRESS WOULD PREVAIL IN THE ENTIRE REGION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, I WOULD FIRST SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD START AFRESH BY LOOKING FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE, WHERE "PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE" IS NOT MERE HOLLOW WORDS BUT A REALITY
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UPON WHICH YOUR PEOPLE AND OTHER PEOPLES OF THIS REGION COULD DEVELOP THEIR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES WHICH ARE VIABLE, RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS.

SECONDLY, IN ORDER TO ATTAIN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GOAL AND AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL AND SINCERITY, THERE MUST BE A CESSATION OF SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, TO THE INSURGENT AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND, AND THAT AT THE SAME TIME BOTH OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD SEE TO IT THAT INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, NEUTRALITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE KINGDOM OF LAOS, AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC BE FULLY AND GENUINELY RESPECTED BY ENSURING FIRST AND FOREMOST THAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, IN WHATEVER FORMS AND DISGUISES, BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN FROM THE KINGDOM OF LAOS AND THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

WE ARE THEREFORE CONVINCED THAT, AS OUR OBJECTIVES ARE BASICALLY SIMILAR, OUR DIVERGENCE OF ATTITUDES COULD BE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED THROUGH DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SOMEWHERE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ALL EXISTING DIFFERENCES WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED AS OBSTACLES TO THE NORMALIZATION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) CHARUN P. ISARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA
(CHARUNPHAN ISARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA)
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THAILAND"

2. WE WILL COMMENT ON THE LETTER IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
KINTNER

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